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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,757	06/25/2001	John E. Ahern	B0410/7282D1	2885

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EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, CATHERINE SERKE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3763

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/888,757

Applicant(s)

AHERN ET AL.

Examiner

Catherine S. Williams

Art Unit

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20-27 and 29-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wappler (USPN 2,269,963) in view of Campbell et al (USPN Re.34,936). Regarding claims 20 and 33, Wappler discloses an apparatus for carrying a plurality of sequentially positioned pellets (20) comprising a therapeutic agent (radioactive) and sequentially implanting one or more of the pellets within a tissue wall. See 1:6-7. The device includes an elongate body (32), a delivery chamber (22) having a space for the pellets (see figure 9) and a port (23), an actuator (39), and a distal end that is sharp and can penetrate a tissue wall. See element 23 and figure 2.

Regarding claims 21 and 34, see trigger 38.

Regarding claims 22 and 35, see handle 37 which can be held and moved to turn the distal end to guide the device through a body lumen if one so chooses.

Regarding claim 23, the distal end of the device and the elongate body appear to be of a size and dimension that are capable of being inserted into a vessel of the body or into the interior of the heart if one so chooses.

Regarding claim 24, see tubular chamber 22 and 3:4.

Regarding claim 25, the distal end of the device is beveled and designed to penetrate tissue. See 3:10-12.

Art Unit: 3763

Regarding claims 26 and 36, see plunger 40.

Regarding claims 27 and 37, see ratchet assembly 41.

Regarding claim 29, see figure 9.

Regarding claims 30 and 38, see figure 2 and handle 37.

Regarding claim 31, see tubular (arcuate) chamber 22.

Regarding claim 32, see figure 9 element 24 and 3:12-22.

Wappler meets the claim limitations as described above but fails to include the elongate body being a flexible body. However, Campbell teaches a device for sequential delivery of pellets into a body having a sharp distal tip for delivering the pellets. As shown in figure 9, the device has an elongate flexible body (25) that is made from plastic resin (see 4:10-17).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious by one skilled in the art to make the elongate body (32) of Wappler from a plastic resin that is injection molded about tube 31 as taught by Campbell. In light of the fact that Wappler is silent as to the materials used to manufacture the device, one skilled in the art would recognize that plastic is a preferred material in the art due to its weight and ease of manufacture. The motivation for the incorporation would have been in order to use a known material to achieve the prior art device.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wappler in view of Dragan (USPN 4,457,712). Wappler meets the claim limitations with respect to claim 20 above but fails to include the threaded plunger of claim 28.

However, Dragan discloses an injection device that include both the teach of a plunger with ratchets and threads. See figures 6 and 17.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious by one skilled in the art to substitute the ratchets of Wappler for the threads as taught by Dragan. One skilled in the art would recognize that both threads and ratchets are designed to move the plunger from one end to another in order to dispense a material. However, one skilled in the art would recognize that threads provide the ability to move the plunger in smaller increments; thereby, enhancing the control of the movement of the plunger. The motivation for the substitution would have been in order to enhance the control of the movement of the plunger for dispensing the material.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach the device being flexible. However, “flexible” is a broad terms without additional reference. Furthermore, all material has some degree of flexibility. Since the prior art device is made from plastic, the prior art device is considered flexible.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

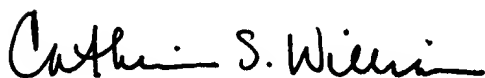
Art Unit: 3763

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine S. Williams whose telephone number is 571-272-4970. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nicholas D. Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Catherine S. Williams
October 8, 2006

CATHERINE S. WILLIAMS
PRIMARY EXAMINER